

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed September 23, 2005 has been carefully reviewed and, in view of the above amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-14, 16-23, 25-37, 39-45, 47-50, 80-81, 83-95, and 110-115. are currently pending in the application, with claims 1, 26, 80, and 110 being independent claims. The Office Action rejects each of the pending claims under the judicially-created doctrine of double patenting, but indicates that each of these claims would be otherwise allowable. Three Terminal Disclaimers overcoming the double patenting rejection are filed with this Amendment. Additionally, the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the withdrawn claims, which are now dependent upon allowed base claims.

In view of the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are in a condition for allowance. The Applicants respectfully request, therefore, that the rejections be withdrawn and that this application now be allowed.

This Amendment is being filed by facsimile transmission on May 3, 2006. Should additional fees be deemed necessary for consideration of this Amendment, such fees are hereby requested and the Commissioner is authorized to charge deposit account number 19-0733 for payment. If anything further is desirable to place the application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned representative at (503) 425-6800.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
Byron S. Kuzara
Registration No. 51,255

Banner & Witcoff, Ltd.
1001 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001-4597
Telephone: (202) 824-3000

Dated: May 3, 2006